

## Minutes of the CAS Faculty Senate Meeting of May 16, 2022

May 16, 2022, 4:00 PM ET – 5:26 PM ET

Attending: James Angelini; Jennifer M. Barker; Alan Fox; John Gizis; Katie Gwaltney; John Morgan; John Pelseko; Jennifer Trivedi; Nonie Bell; Patricia Burt; Suzanne Burton; Erin Cassese; Kelly Cobb; Jon Cox; Theodore Davis, Jr.; Peter Feng; Darryl Flaherty; Christine Grogan; Deni Galileo; Dominique Guillot; Eynat Gutman; Richard Hanley; Jason Hill; Kathryn Howland; Jenny Lobasz; Dilla López-Gydosh; Talley Ridgeway; Thomas Rocek; Kimberly Schroeder; Jorge Serrano; Jia Song; Joelle Wickens; Neal Zondlo

President Jennifer Barker welcomed everyone.

It was noted that Joelle Wickens was there as a substitute for Nina Owczarek. 24 senators or substitutes were present at the start of the meeting.

The agenda was adopted by a vote of 26-0.

The minutes from the April 18, 2022 meeting were approved by a vote of 25-0.

There was no discussion of the consent agenda.

By a vote of 24-0 the consent agenda was approved, moving the Water Science and Policy (MS), Water Science and Policy - Water Policy Concentration (PhD), and Water Science and Policy - Water Science Concentration (PhD) to the Graduate College.

COCAN Chair John Morgan gave his report, sharing the staffing of committees spreadsheet. He noted that there were 3 elections that needed to be held in the CAS Faculty Senate: one for President Elect, one for COCAN Chair, and one for Secretary. There is only one candidate running for each position, Neal Zondlo, John Morgan, and Jennifer Trivedi, respectively.

Regarding the committees, a new member, Amy Hicks, has agreed to serve on the P&T Committee, filling the needed spot from the arts portfolio. There is a vacancy on the Education Affairs Committee which needs to be filled by someone in the Social Science Portfolio.

Regarding the Graduate Council Elections, information is needed from 2 groups to start, but that should wrap up soon.

Senator Morgan offered to share Amy Hicks's biography, but the Senate declined. She was elected to the P&T Committee by a vote of 26-0.

Neal Zondlo was then elected to the role of President Elect by a vote of 25-1.

Jennifer Trivedi was elected to the role of Secretary by a vote of 27-0.

John Morgan was elected to the role of COCAN Chair by a vote of 26-1.

Senator Morgan then spoke about proposed meeting dates for the CAS Faculty Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year. He noted most are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, the Senate's preferred meeting date, but a few have been shifted. November was shifted so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving break and December was shifted so as not to be after the exam period ended. The other dates have

been verified by John Morgan and Jennifer Trivedi to not conflict with any major religious holidays, as noted by Senator Morgan and President Barker.

The Executive Committee recommends these dates be approved and some can be changed later if need be. The proposed dates are September 19, October 17,

There were no comments or questions.

The proposed dates were approved by the Senate of a vote of 27-0.

A discussion was then opened about moving meetings online for the 2022-2023 year. Initially the vote and discussion were regarding the September meeting only. Discussion among the senators raised several issues, including how some departmental senators might only be able to serve if meetings were online and how being online left senators the option of still attending if ill, out of town, etc.

By a show of hands, most senators showed that they wanted to vote on the issue for the full year rather than just the September meeting.

There was then a vote of 26-3 in favor of moving the meetings for all of the 2022-2023 academic year online.

Senator Morgan then spoke on Bylaw Revisions.

The first was to remove the Biden School from the list of departments in the Social Sciences portfolio of the CAS which are represented in the Graduate Council. The Senate voted in favor of this 29-0.

He then spoke on reverting to the previous numbering system for College Bylaws, made as a request to the Dean's office, which the Senate voted in favor of 29-0.

Finally, he spoke to remove the Chair of the CAS P&T Committee from the CAS Executive Committee and to add provisions for all chairs of the standing and *ad hoc* committees of the CAS Senate to meet with the CAS Executive Committee. Senator Morgan noted that this is the more complex of the three problems and it can be postponed to the September meeting if needed. He also said that people can request space to talk to the Executive Committee, which discusses things with a consensus.

In the discussion on this, it was pointed out that chairs can invite whoever they want to committee meetings, so this doesn't need to be in the bylaws, but also that this was too complicated to vote on today. It was also noted that we should be trying to get our agendas a week before the meetings.

The Senate voted to omit 5 and 6 from the item and fix some typos in the form of additional S's. It was moved and seconded to accept the resolution as amended. The vote was 24-1 in favor of the amended resolution.

We then heard from Dean Pelesko, who noted that May is a busy month. Convocation and commencement are in flux to accommodate the U.S. President.

Blue and Golden Saturdays are having an impact. In 2019 under the old system, 38.83% of attendees applied to CAS. In 2021, that was up to 64.30%. In fall 2020, 29.4% of people who attended Blue and Golden Saturdays attended and deposited at UD while in 2022 that was up to 36.6%.

We are seeing a similar pattern with decision days for CAS, seeing 65.61% in 2019 compared to 72.85% in 2022.

CAS's target for the next academic year is 1,324 and we have 1,564 deposits, a record for a CAS incoming class by 15%. There were more applications this year and more admitted students. Admissions was only up 2.8%. The yield rate as a college matches the university for the first time, as CAS is usually 2-3% behind. There have been increases across the board in every corner of the college.

Dean Pelesko noted that while the arts and humanities are under attack we are seeing massive gains. If you would like more details, chairs can get departmental specifics from associate deans.

To temper excitement a bit, they do expect some summer melt with students who make a deposit but don't come in the fall, which has historically been 5%. There is also some expectation of a demographic cliff in 2024.

He has asked chairs to look at fall capacities, with specific concerns about math and English.

He wants to set expectations at new student events. Students entering this fall had a disruptive high school experience in a way students before have not.

There are two college award winners in the Senate. Jennifer Barker won an award for Outstanding Scholarship and John Morgan won an award for Outstanding Service.

In Q&A, Senator Morgan noted that his award was a team effort with the people he works with like the COCAN members, the CAS Executive Committee, and other faculty members who respond to all requests.

There were several questions for the Dean and discussion of a range of issues.

The numbers listed do not include the Associates program.

There was encouragement to be cautious with Covid and large events. Masking was suggested at large upcoming events, but not required. It would be a good idea to encourage checking people's Green Check status.

With the Associates program, there were also questions of how remote instruction would be impacted in southern Delaware alongside a physical presence for AAP there. Dean Pelesko directed that question to the Provost's office, but also noted that the intent is for the time being and next year for keeping the sites in southern Delaware as they are now and keep the current arrangement there with Del Tech. There is also a question of curriculum, how we do it and do it well.

There was also a note that Honors numbers have changed unpredictably, but Dean Pelesko clarified that this was predictable because of how the application changed, so we need to look at all of the factors in play, which is why we don't compare things to pre-2019 because of the move to early action, which makes it tricky to compare the data.

Questions of transfer students continue to come up. The 1,564 number does not include transfers, only direct admissions. The majority of transfers, per Dean Pelesko, come in the spring semester, so those numbers will come later.

Problems were also raised with space and scheduling, as multiple departments have had issues with scheduling classes in complete compliance with the registrar's office, the course was published, students had registered, but there was not adequate space, so revisions had to be made. Dean Pelesko was unaware of these specific issues, but knew there had been challenges in the past, so he will reach out to the Registrar's office to talk about this. There is new software with peak times and new rules involved.

There was also a note that hybrid modes of instruction could help with space issues.

There was no new business introduced.

President Barker said she had a fun year, told everyone to have a great summer, and that she looked forward to handing things over to President Elect John Gizis.

The Senate thanks President Barker.

We adjourned at approximately 5:26 PM ET.